

Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 MC-01 EB-07 L-02 AID-05 IGA-01

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P R 281905Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7190

SECDEF

INFO JCS

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T ATHENS 759

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, GR

SUBJECT: GREEK MILITARY EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

REFS: A. CJUSMAG 231205Z DEC 74

B. CJUSMAG 071530Z JAN 75 (NOTAL

C. CJUSMAG 101310Z JAN 75 (NOTAL)

D. CJUSMAG 141429Z JAN 75 (NOTAL)

E. USCINCEUR 131847Z JAN 75 (NOTAL)

F. USCINCEUR 181214Z JAN 75 (NOTAL)

G. USCINCEUR 231641Z JAN 75 (NOTAL)

1. ON DECEMBER 21, DEFMIN AVEROFF GAVE TO THE AMBASSADOR
LISTS OF EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS OF THE THREE HELLENIC
ARMED FORCES (SEE REF A). THE LISTS WERE POORLY
FORMULATED AND REQUIRED INTENSIVE STAFFING BY JUSMAGG
AND REVIEW WITH THE HELLENIC ARMED SERVICES. FOLLOWING
THIS CJUSMAGG TRANSMITTED THE ANNOTATED AND ANALYZED
LISTS (REFS B, C, & D) TO CINCEUR FOR FURTHER COMMENT
AND TRANSMITTAL TO WASHINGTON (REFS E, F, & G) THESE
LISTS ARE REQUESTS FOR USG PROVISION OF CONSIDERABLE
VOLUME OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND RAISE A NUMBER OF POLICY
ISSUES. FOLLOWING ARE OUR COMMENTS ON THE LISTS AND ON
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SEVERAL OF THE POLICY ISSUES.

2. THE INHERENT COMPLEXITIES INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF FINITE COSTING OF THE HELLENIC MODERNIZATION EQUIPMENT LISTS PRECLUDE OUR MAKING EVEN AN EDUCATED GUESS AS TO WHAT THE TOTAL COST MIGHT BE. THE FACTORS BEYOND OUR CONTROL AND THE INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE TO US INCLUDE THE IMPACT OF CONTINUED INFLATION IN PRICES, PRODUCTION RATES, AND THE SOURCE OF EQUIPMENT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT INFORMATION OF THIS NATURE NORMALLY IS ASSEMBLED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE UPON RECEIPT OF AN OFFICIAL REQUEST FOR PRICE AND AVAILABILITY FROM THE HOST GOVERNMENT, WHICH, IN THE BROAD SENSE, IS THE PURPOSE OF THE LISTS. IN ADDITION TO REPLIES WHICH MIGHT BE FORTHCOMING CONCERNING INDIVIDUAL ITEMS ON THESE LISTS, WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING FROM THE DEPARTMENTS AN INDICATION OF THE OVERALL MAGNITUDE OF THE COSTS INVOLVED AS WELL AS THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON POLICY ISSUES TOUCHED UPON BELOW.

3. AS NOTED BY EUROM (REFS E,F, & G), GOG MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS WOULD BE USED TO REPLACE OBSOLETE/OBSCULESCENT WEAPONS FOR UNITS WHICH FALL WITHIN JSOP FORCE GOALS FOR GREECE, AND WITHIN NATO FORCE GOALS AS WELL. ALTHOUGH THE IMMEDIATE CONCERN OF GOG IS TO ENHANCE ITS COMBAT CAPABILITY IN ORDER TO DETER TURKEY FROM ACTIONS WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO CLASH BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, GREECE'S ARMED FORCES ARE STILL ORGANIZED AND DEPLOYED BASICALLY AGAINST THE THREAT FROM THE NORTH. LOOKING BEYOND CURRENT GREEK/TURKISH TENSIONS, ANY IMPROVEMENT IN CAPABILITY OF GREEK FORCES CAN ONLY HELP THE LARGER ALLIANCE INTEREST IN DETERRING SOVIET BLOC FROM POLITICAL OR OTHER PRESSURES WHICH MIGHT OTHERWISE BE STIMULATED BY GREEK MILITARY WEAKNESS AND CONSEQUENT LOSS OF POLITICAL WILL.

4. YET ANOTHER REASON FOR ASSISTING GREECE TO MEET ITS MILITARY REQUIREMENTS IS TO FOSTER THE CONTINUATION OF THE CLOSE US/GREEK SECURITY RELATIONSHIP WHICH HAS SERVED SO WELL THE NEEDS OF BOTH COUNTRIES OVER THE PAST 25 YEARS. WE ARE ON THE EDGE OF NEGOTIATIONS ON ALTERING BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS, AND RESTRUCTURING OUR MILITARY PRESENCE IN GREECE, WHICH ARE LIKELY TO CREATE
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THE FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH OUR SECURITY RELATIONSHIP WITH GREECE WILL FUNCTION OVER THE NEXT DECADE OR MORE. WE SHOULD BE AS HELPFUL AND FORTHCOMING AS WE CAN BE IN MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS ON THE GREEK LIST, FOR ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT ASSUME THERE WILL BE A DIRECT CORRELATION BETWEEN OUR RESPONSIVENESS AND A MORE RELAXED GREEK ATTITUDE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, THE GOG WOULD BE IN A MUCH BETTER POSITION TO JUSTIFY THE CONTINUATION OF GREECE'S

CLOSE SECURITY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE USG IF TANGIBLE
BENEFITS FOR GREECE WERE EVIDENT TO ALL CONCERNED.
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